

X-FACTOR

DAVID • PHAM • FLOREA • SOTOMAYOR



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REBER

IN A SOCIETY WHERE MUTANTS AND FORMER MUTANTS ALIKE FEEL THREATENED BY THE WORLD AROUND THEM, THEY TURN TO THEIR FIRST, BEST LINE OF DEFENSE WHENEVER TROUBLE ARISES: X-FACTOR, THE PRIVATE DETECTIVE AGENCY FOUNDED BY MADROX, THE MULTIPLE MAN.

X-FACTOR

WHEN WE LAST LEFT OUR HEROES...



X-FACTOR WAS ENGAGED IN A RUNNING BATTLE WITH THE X-CELL, A GROUP OF FORMER MUTANTS CONVINCED THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WAS BEHIND THE EVENTS OF M-DAY. THE X-CELL CONSISTS OF CALLISTO, MARROW, ABYSS, THE BLOB, REAVER, AND ELIJAH CROSS, WHO YOU PROBABLY NEVER HEARD OF BEFORE BECAUSE HE ONLY SHOWED UP FOR THE FIRST TIME A COUPLE ISSUES AGO.

WITH VARIOUS MEMBERS OF X-FACTOR HAVING BEEN WOUNDED, POISONED, CHUCKED IN A SEWER OR INTO PARTS UNKNOWN, OUR HEROES RETREATED TO THEIR HEADQUARTERS WHERE A CAPTURED BLOB IS BEING PUMPED FOR INFORMATION. MEANWHILE RICTOR IS IN PIETRO'S CLINIC, WHERE PIETRO HAS CONVINCED THE FORMER MUTANT THAT RICTOR CAN BE USED AS A SIPHON TO CHANNEL PIETRO'S RESTORATIVE ABILITIES, THUS RETURNING THE X-CELL TO THEIR FORMER POWER LEVELS.

MEANWHILE, ANDY SCHMIDT AND HIS WIFE ALIX HAVE THUS FAR GOTTEN TWO—COUNT 'EM, TWO—MADROX-STYLE ONESIES FOR THEIR FORTHCOMING CHILD. C'MON, GUYS, YOU CAN DO BETTER THAN THAT.

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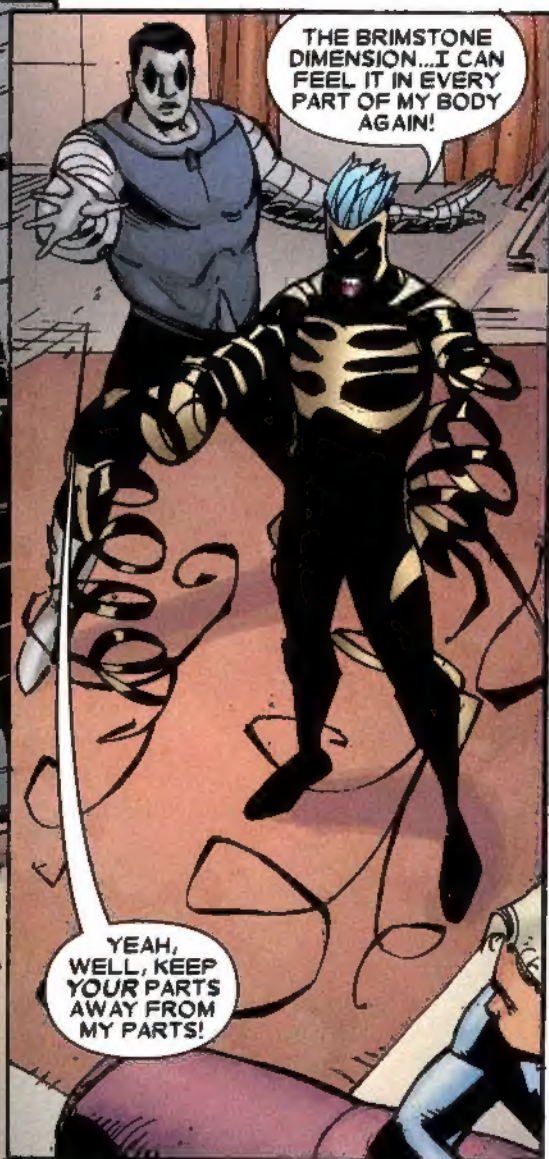
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THIS...THIS IS FANTASTIC. EVEN MY ARM IS HEALED!



THE BRIMSTONE DIMENSION...I CAN FEEL IT IN EVERY PART OF MY BODY AGAIN!

YEAH, WELL, KEEP YOUR PARTS AWAY FROM MY PARTS!



RICTOR? ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? CAN YOU KEEP GOING?



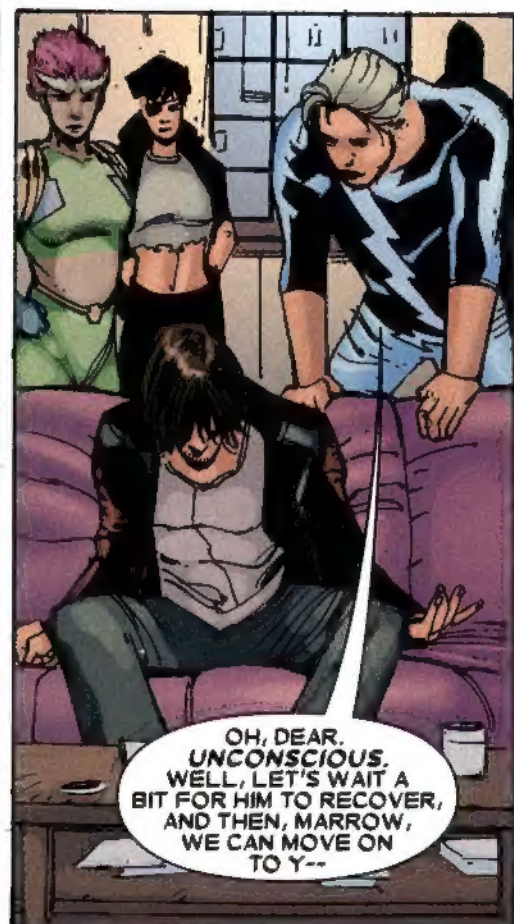
WHY... DON'T I FEEL THE EARTH YET? I...I ALMOST CAN...

LIKE IT'S...JUST OUT OF REACH. WHY...?



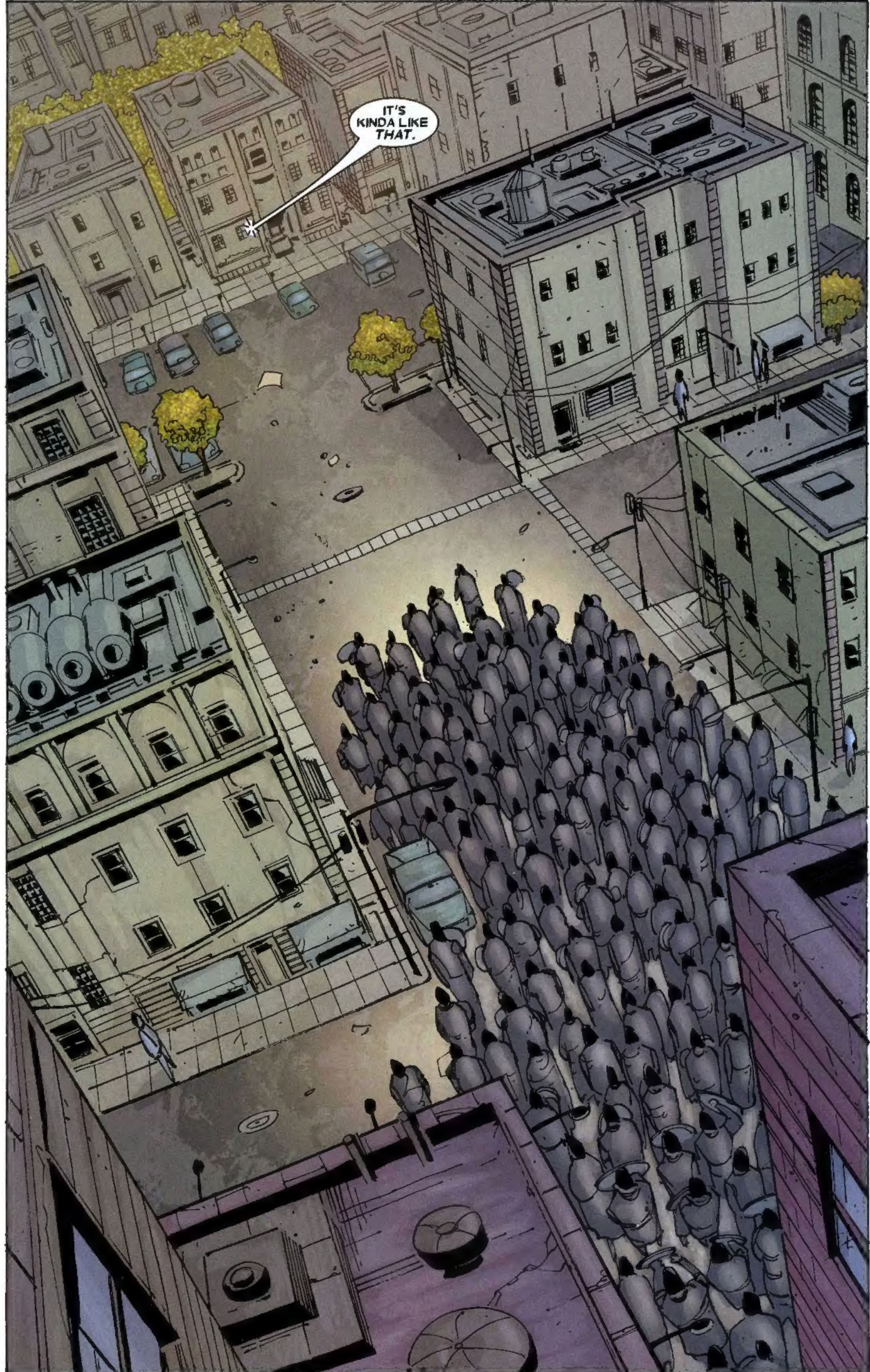
BECAUSE YOU'RE STILL ACTING AS A SIPHON, SO MY POWER IS INVESTING YOU INCREMENTALLY RATHER THAN ALL AT ONCE.

COME... LET'S CONTIN--



OH, DEAR. UNCONSCIOUS. WELL, LET'S WAIT A BIT FOR HIM TO RECOVER, AND THEN, MARROW, WE CAN MOVE ON TO Y--





IT'S
KINDA LIKE
THAT.







WE'VE GOT ENOUGH FRIENDS!

RAHNE ISN'T EXACTLY A HAPPY CAMPER. SHE GOT DUMPED DOWN A SEWER AND CAME BACK TO HEADQUARTERS REEKING OF SEWAGE, DEMANDING A SHOWER AND SWEARING REVENGE.



RAHNE ALMOST NEVER TAKES ON HER FULL WOLF-FORM. SHE DOESN'T LIKE WHAT IT DOES TO HER.

BUT FROM HER ACTIONS THIS TIME...



...SHE DOESN'T SEEM TO CARE.

RAARRRRRR!!!

EEYIII!!!



FOOLISHNESS. SUCH
FOOLISHNESS.

WHAT DO
THEY HOPE TO
ACCOMPLISH
BY THIS?



A
DISTRACTION.



SO I
COULD BASICALLY
WALK IN THE BACK
DOOR.



WHO'S
THIS?

LAYLA
MILLER. SHE
PROFESSES
TO "KNOW
THINGS."

STUFF. I
KNOW STUFF.
DON'T MANGLE
MY CATCH-
PHRASE.

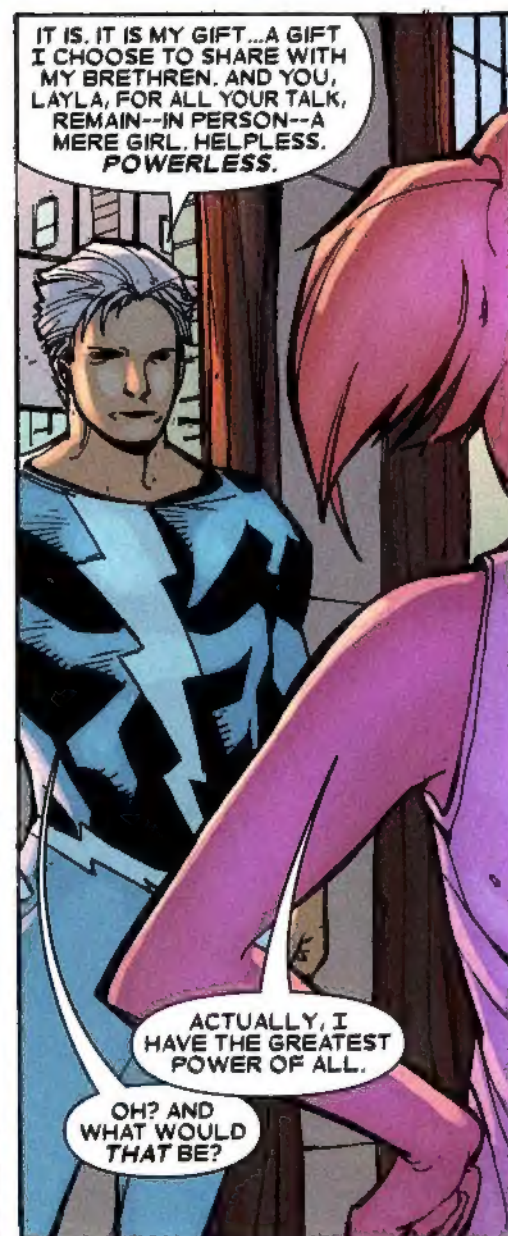
REALLY.
AND WHAT KIND
OF "STUFF" DO
YOU KNOW?



I KNOW THAT
THE GOVERNMENT
DIDN'T TAKE YOUR
POWERS AWAY.

PIETRO
KNOWS IT, TOO.
HE'S JUST USING
YOU BECAUSE
HE'S...Y'KNOW...
EVIL.

AND HE
THINKS THAT
ALL THAT
MATTERS IS
POWER.



IT IS. IT IS MY GIFT...A GIFT
I CHOOSE TO SHARE WITH
MY BRETHREN. AND YOU,
LAYLA, FOR ALL YOUR TALK,
REMAIN--IN PERSON--A
MERE GIRL. HELPLESS.
POWERLESS.

ACTUALLY, I
HAVE THE GREATEST
POWER OF ALL.

OH? AND
WHAT WOULD
THAT BE?

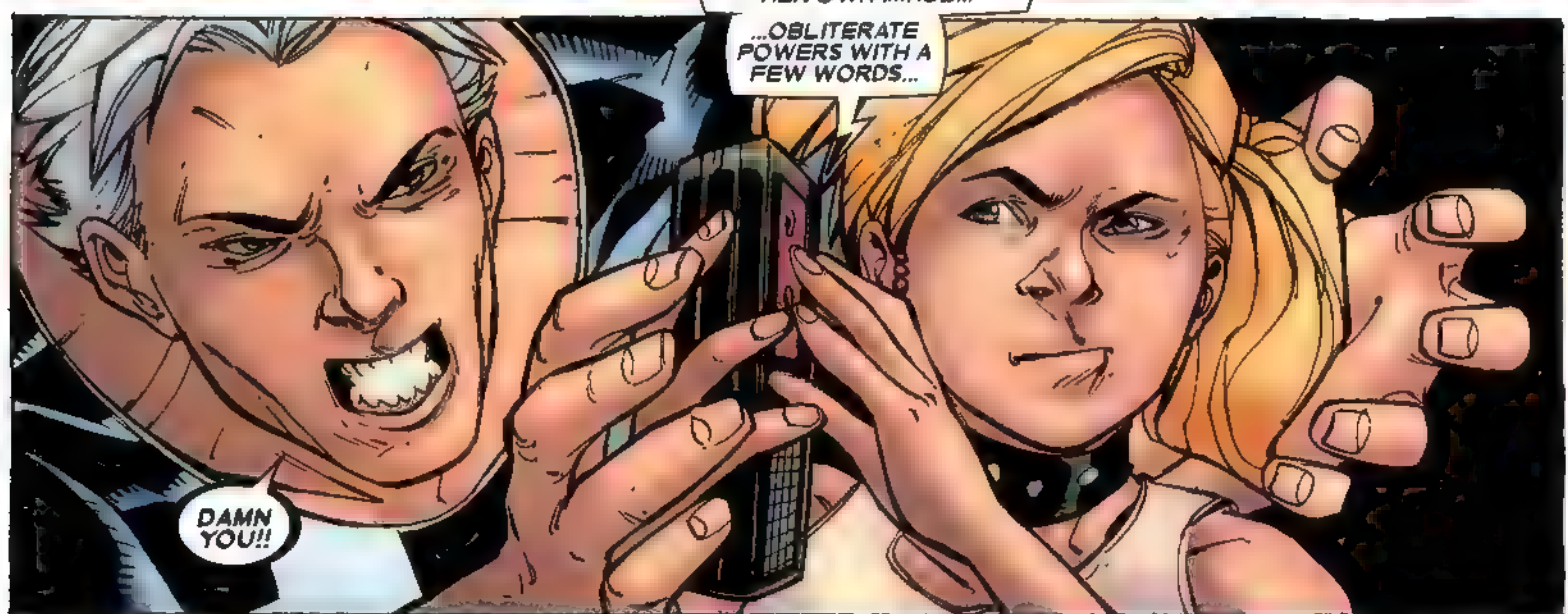


WE COULDN'T LET
PEOPLE KNOW THE
TRUTH. IT WOULD'VE
CAUSED A
WORLDWIDE PANIC.

GET
AWAY FROM
HER--!



IF EVERYONE KNEW THAT
A SINGLE MUTANT COULD
CREATE THE WORLD IN
HER OWN IMAGE...



...OBLITERATE
POWERS WITH A
FEW WORDS...

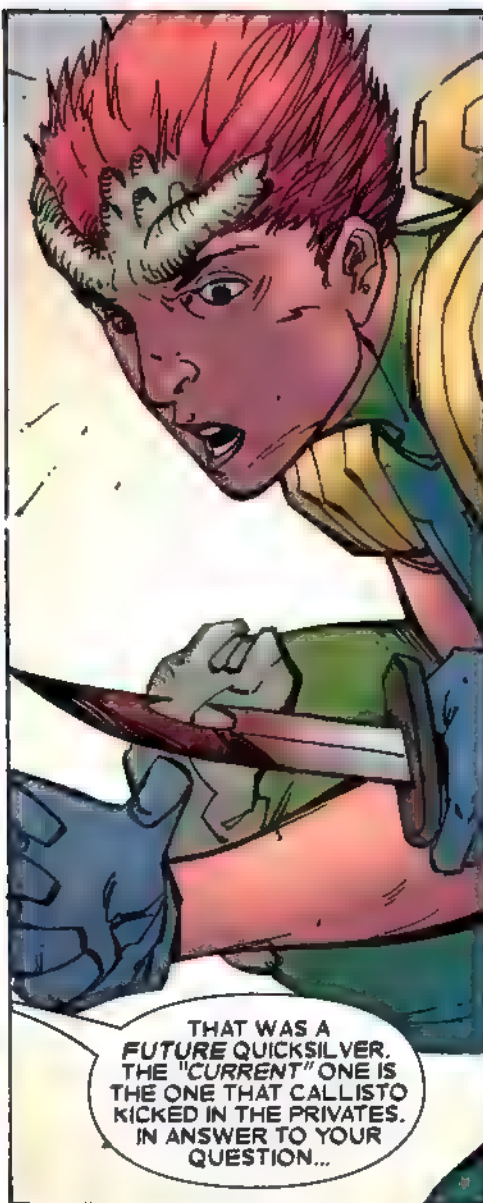
DAMN
YOU!!



...HUMANS
WOULD HAVE
WANTED TO
DESTROY ANY
REMAINING
MUTANTS...



WHO WAS IT?
WHO'S THE "SHE"
RESPONSIBLE FOR
THIS?



THAT WAS A
FUTURE QUICKSILVER.
THE "CURRENT" ONE IS
THE ONE THAT CALLISTO
KICKED IN THE PRIVATES.
IN ANSWER TO YOUR
QUESTION...

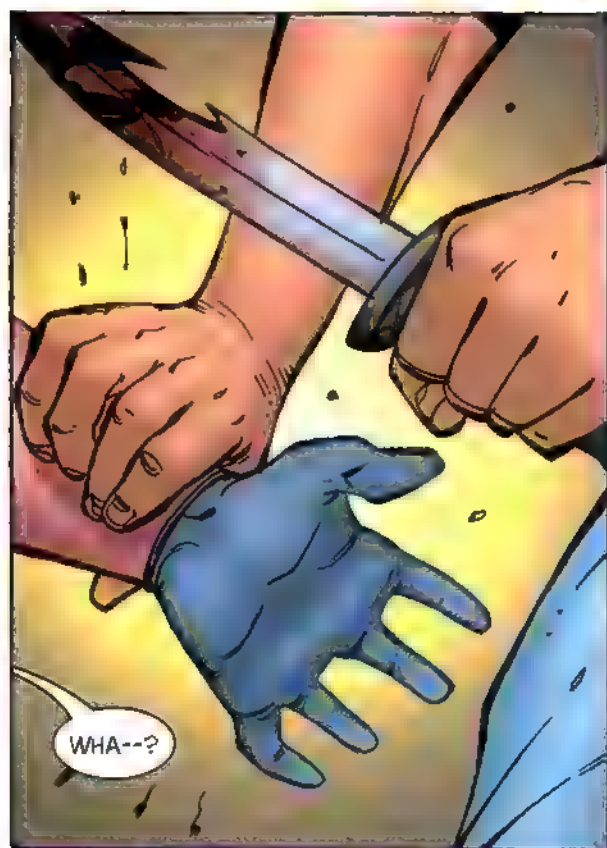


THINK ABOUT
IT: WHAT MUTANT
"SHE" WOULD
PIETRO BE THE
MOST WILLING TO
COVER FOR?



THE WITCH!
THE SCARLET
WITCH! SHE...

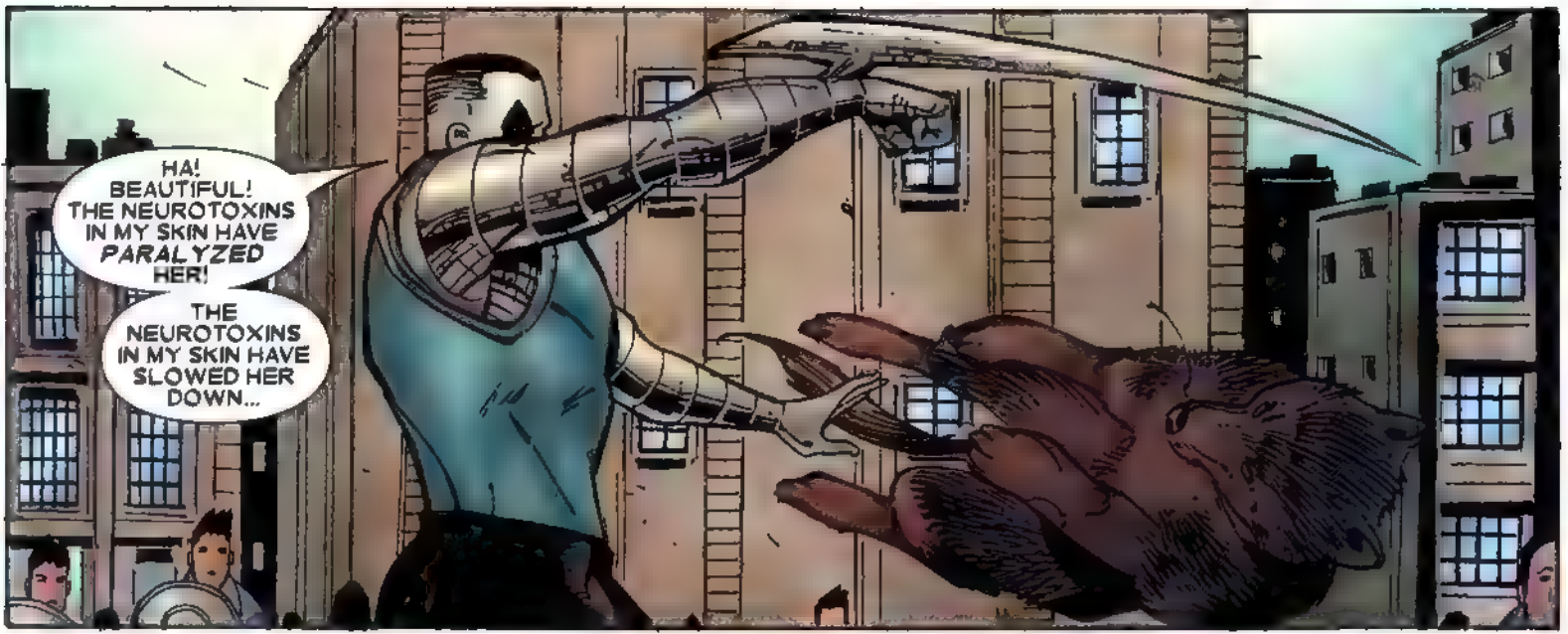
SARAH!
BEHIND
Y--



WHA--?



ARR
RHH!





YOU'RE A
TRAITOR, MADROX!
YOU AND YOUR WHOLE
CREW! A TRAITOR TO
MUTANTKIND!

NOW I KNOW HOW
A RACK OF BOWLING
PINS FEELS.

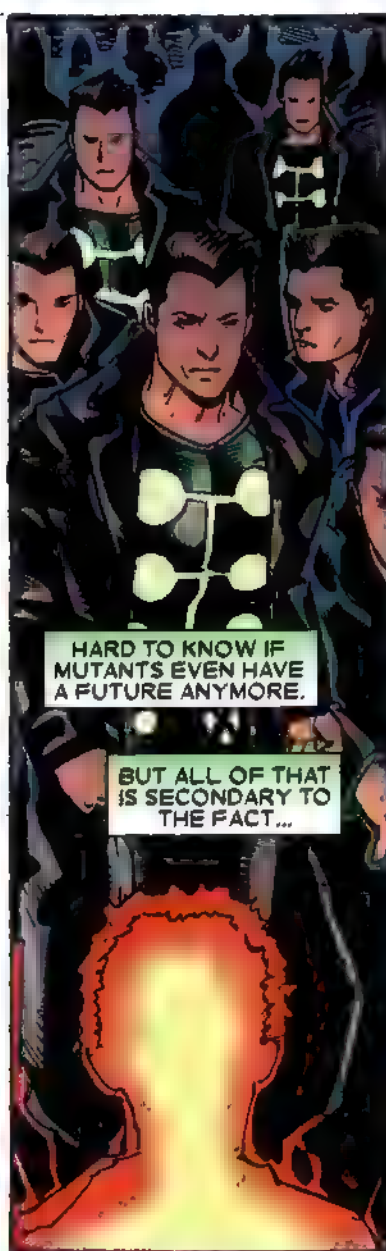
AND I'M PRETTY MUCH
HITTING CAPACITY FOR MY
DUPES, SO CROSS'S IMPACT
DOESN'T CREATE MORE.



WE'RE THE
GOOD GUYS HERE!
THAT'S WHY PEOPLE
LIKE CALLISTO AND
MARROW JOINED
UP!

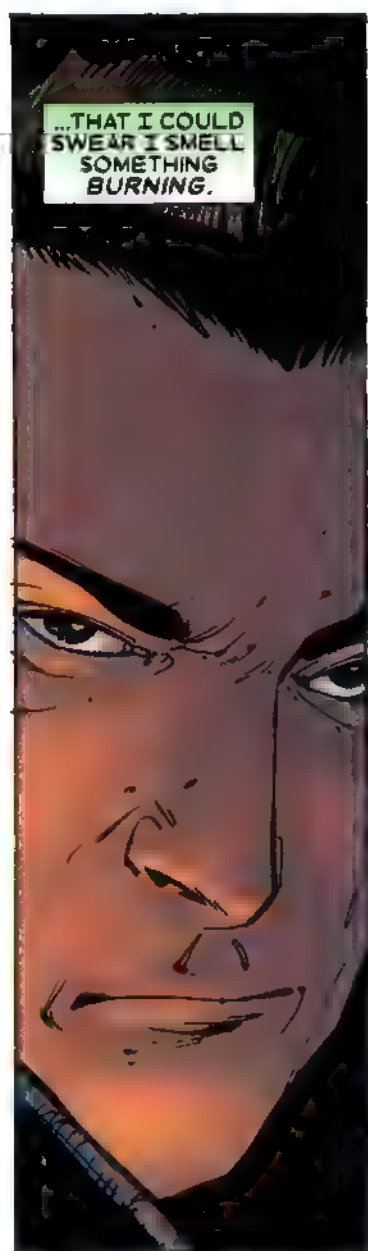
WE SHOULD
ALL BE WORKING
TOGETHER TO BUILD
A FUTURE!

HE MAKES IT
SOUND SO
POSITIVE, A
FUTURE.



HARD TO KNOW IF
MUTANTS EVEN HAVE
A FUTURE ANYMORE.

BUT ALL OF THAT
IS SECONDARY TO
THE FACT...



...THAT I COULD
SWEAR I SMELL
SOMETHING
BURNING.





CUTE. THAT WAS REALLY CUTE.

GOT TO BE YOU, FATALE. BENDING LIGHT SO THAT YOU'RE INVISIBLE.

FUNNY THING...WHEN YOU'RE FIGHTING A TELEPATH WITH ACCELERATED HEARING...



...INVISIBILITY ISN'T WORTH A DAMN!

UNFFFF!!!



UNHHHH!!!

GOT YOU!!



I'M ALMOST SORRY TO HAVE TO DO THIS, MONET. THE BRIMSTONE DIMENSION WITHIN ME...IT IS NOWHERE YOU'LL WANT TO SPEND TIME.

IF ONLY YOU COULD HAVE SHARED OUR VISION...COULD HAVE SEEN WHAT IS TO COME, AS MUTANTKIND ACHIEVES GREATNESS ONCE AGAIN--



AW,
PUT A LID
ON IT!

THAT'S WHEN THE SCREAMING
STARTS...AND THE SMELL...THE
AROMA OF BURNING FLESH...
BECOMING EVEN MORE
PRONOUNCED...

IT'S CROSS.



HELP ME!
SOMEBODY...
HELP ME!!!!

DAMN YOU,
QUICKSILVER!
RICTOR...YOU
TRAITORS--!

I'LL KILL
YOU FOR THIS!
I-I'LL--





BEST
ATTEND TO MARROW,
CALLISTO, AND QUICKLY:
SHE MAY NOT HAVE LONG.
AS FOR YOU, LAYLA
MILLER...THIS RECKONING
HAS BEEN A LONG TIME
COMING.

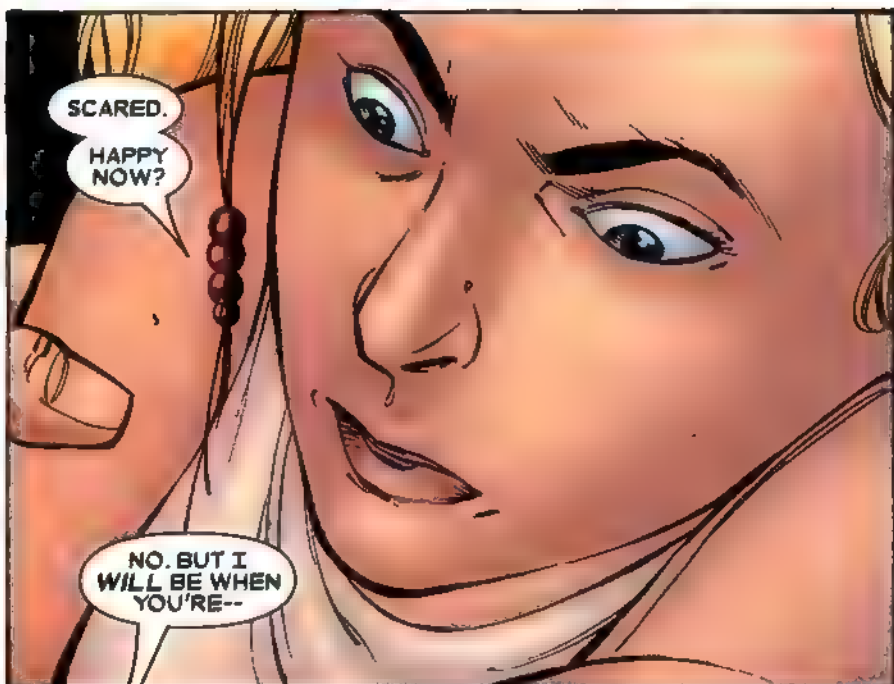
THEN
AGAIN, I
SUPPOSE YOU
KNEW THAT,
DIDN'T YOU?

KINDA.



YOU FEEL
NO PAIN FROM MY
TOUCH, AS GUIDO
DID!

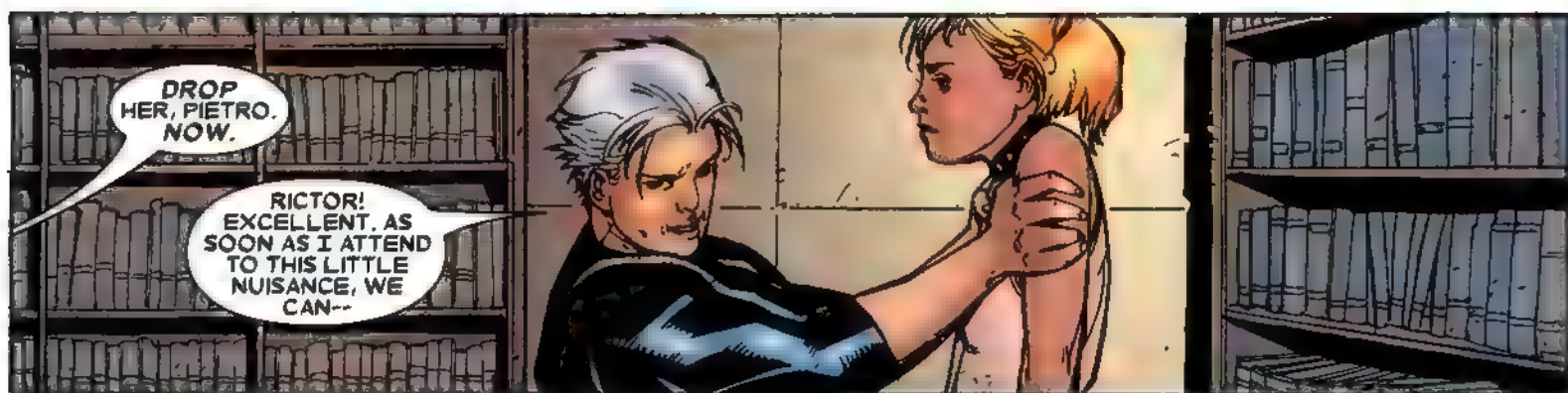
YOU'RE NOT
A MUTANT! THEN...
WHAT ARE YOU?



SCARED.

HAPPY
NOW?

NO. BUT I
WILL BE WHEN
YOU'RE--



DROP
HER, PIETRO.
NOW.

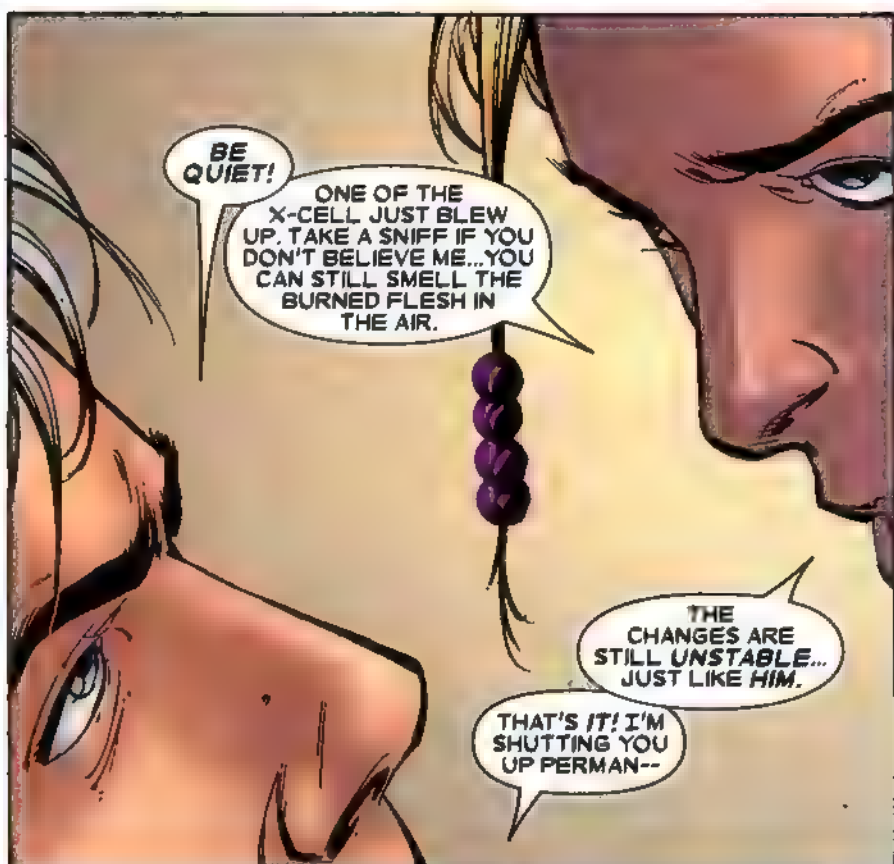
RICTOR!
EXCELLENT. AS
SOON AS I ATTEND
TO THIS LITTLE
NUISANCE, WE
CAN--



I DON'T
STAND BY AND LET
KIDS GET KILLED. NOT
EVEN KIDS THAT ANNOY
THE SNOT OUT OF ME.

LET
HER GO.

HE'S
USING YOU,
RIC.

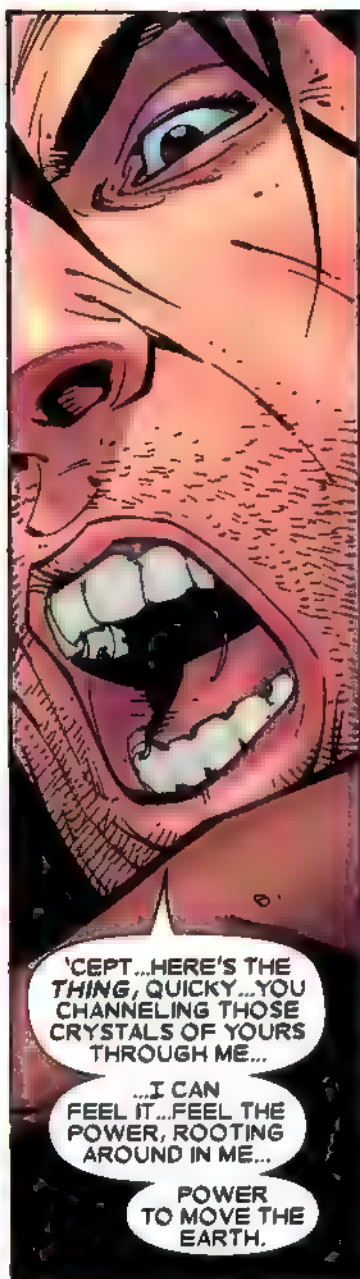
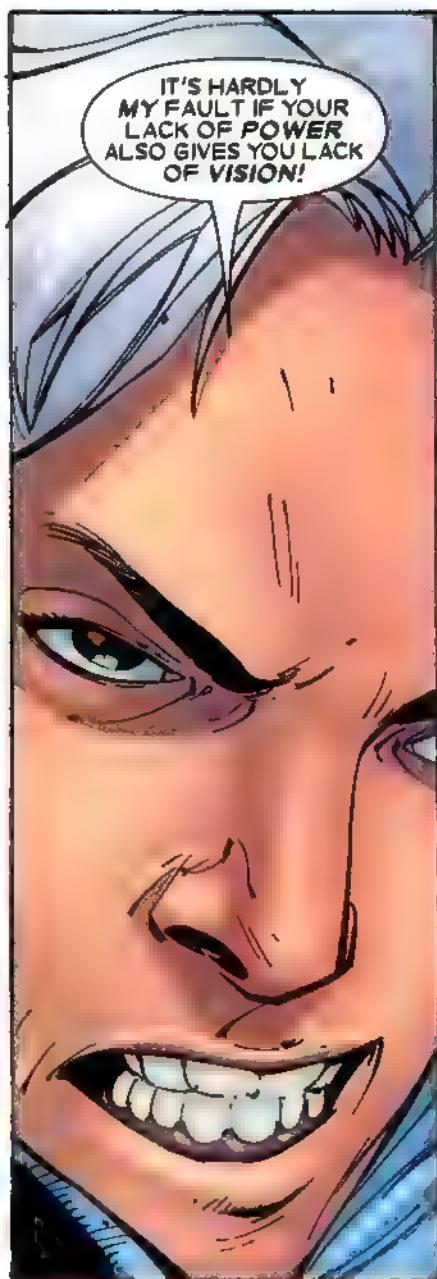
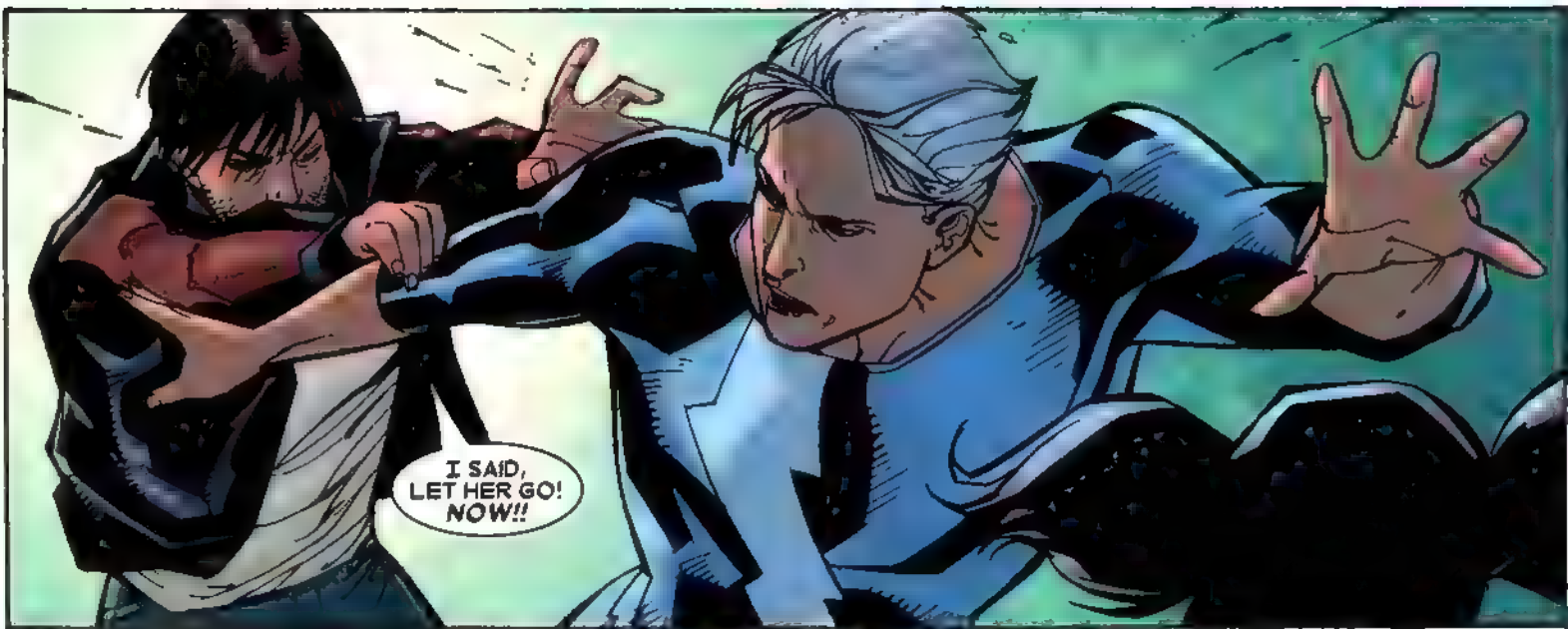


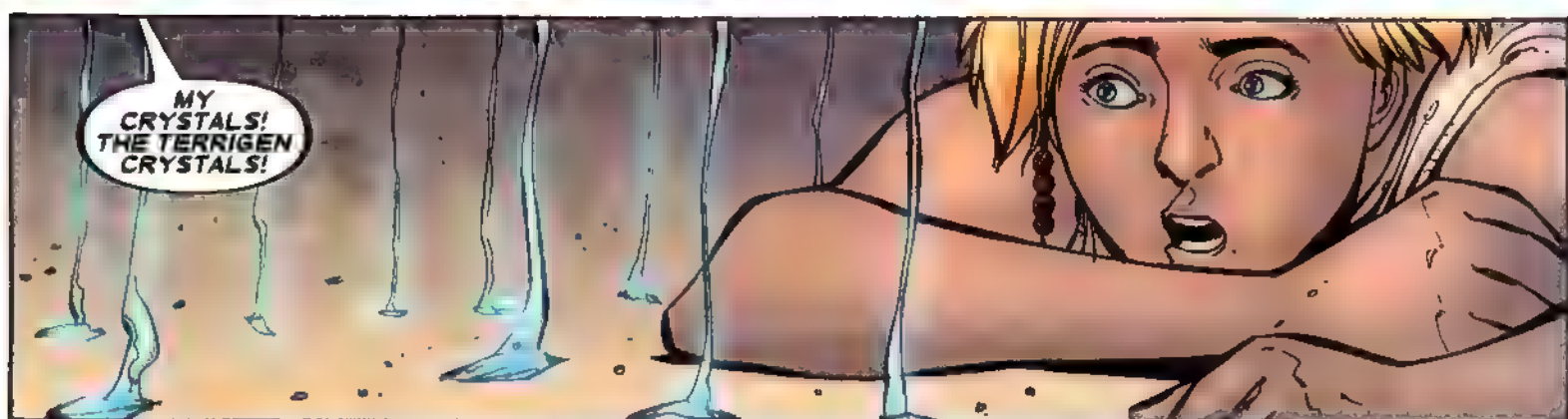
BE
QUIET!

ONE OF THE
X-CELL JUST BLEW
UP. TAKE A SNIFF IF YOU
DON'T BELIEVE ME...YOU
CAN STILL SMELL THE
BURNED FLESH IN
THE AIR.

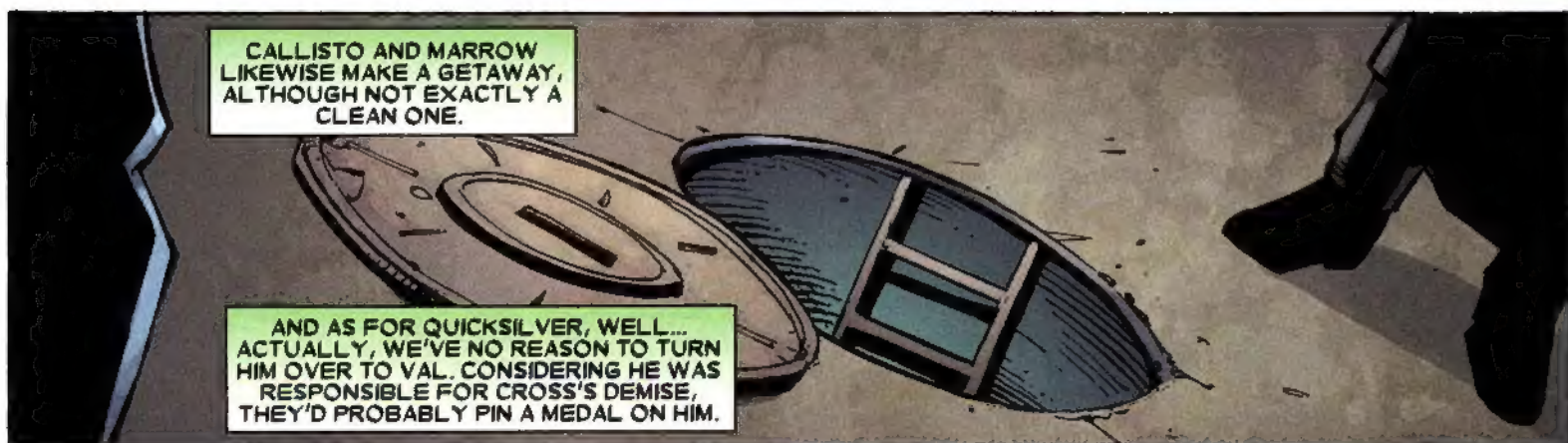
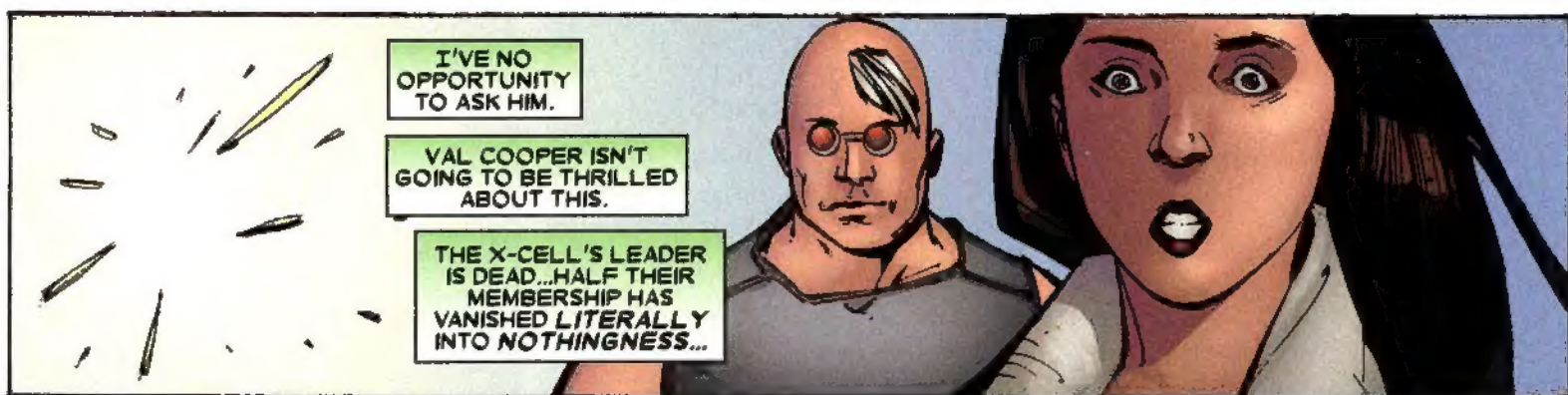
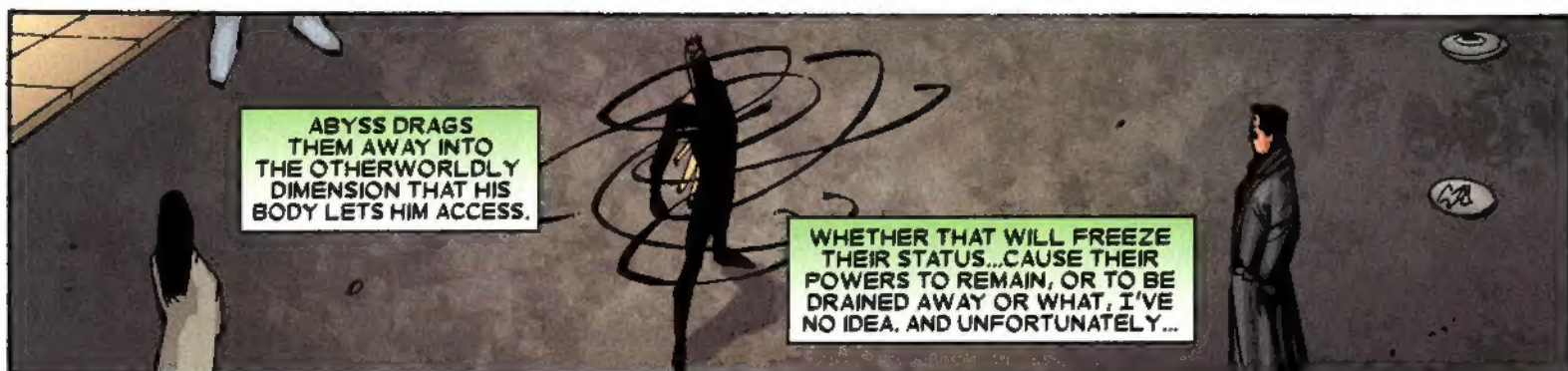
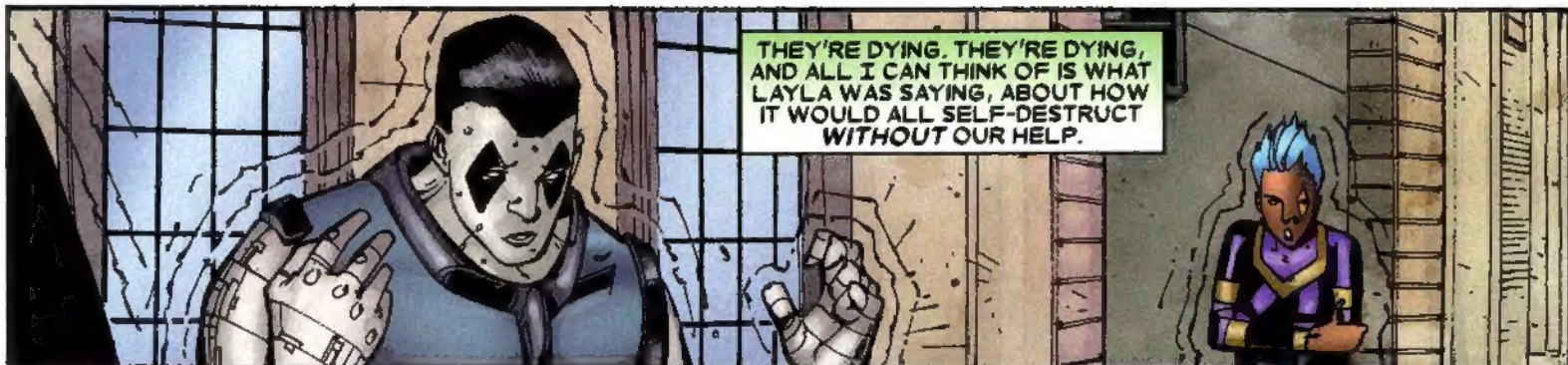
THE
CHANGES ARE
STILL UNSTABLE...
JUST LIKE HIM.

THAT'S IT! I'M
SHUTTING YOU
UP PERMANENTLY--







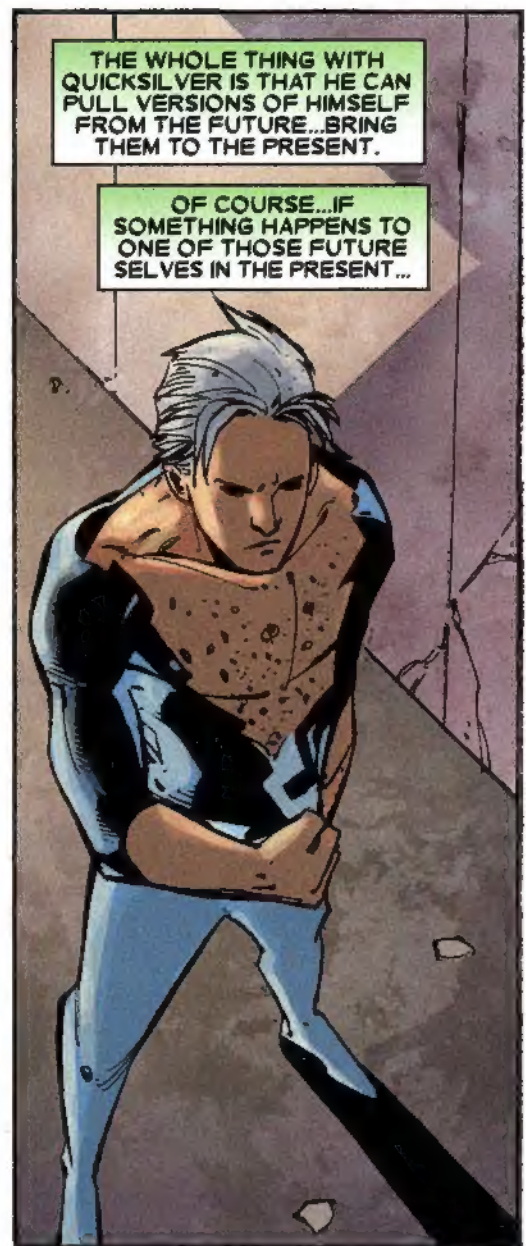




ONE...ONE
LEFT...SALVAGED...
SALVAGED ONE...IF...
IF THERE'S ONE...
MAYBE...MAYBE
I CAN...



NOOOO!!!



THE WHOLE THING WITH
QUICKSILVER IS THAT HE CAN
PULL VERSIONS OF HIMSELF
FROM THE FUTURE...BRING
THEM TO THE PRESENT.

OF COURSE...IF
SOMETHING HAPPENS TO
ONE OF THOSE FUTURE
SELVES IN THE PRESENT...



ARRRRHH!!

...THEN WHEN PIETRO "CATCHES
UP" TO THAT POINT IN TIME...THEN
HIS "PAST" IS GOING TO RETURN
TO HAUNT HIM.



THEN AGAIN...I GUESS
THAT'S THE WHOLE THING
WITH THE FUTURE:



SOMETIMES YOU
CATCH UP WITH IT
SOONER THAN
YOU THINK.



Diesel Industry
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